

Message Text

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15

ACTION OS-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CU-05 AID-07 M-02 /027 W

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P 070747Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1385

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 1878

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASCH, SY

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE FOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL DAMASCUS (DAMASCUS
COMMUNITY SCHOOL)

REF: A. STATE 193939; B. DAMASCUS 1837; C. DAMASCUS 1427;
D. DAMASCUS 1877

1. TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS ATTENDING DAMASCUS COMMUNITY
SCHOOL DURING ACADEMIC YEAR 1974/75 UNCERTAIN UNTIL
COMPLETION REGISTRATION WHICH BEGINS SEPTEMBER 9.
PRESENT ESTIMATE FOR TOTAL ENROLLMENT IS 175 INCLUDING
14 US STUDENTS (12 USG AND 2 UN). BALANCE OF STUDENT
BODY MADE UP OF THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS FROM DIPLOMATIC
AND FOREIGN BUSINESS COMMUNITY. ONLY 2 OR 3 SYRIAN
NATIONALS WILL BE ENROLLED.

2. USELLIS REPORT ON RESPONSIBILITIES FOR TWO TEACHERS
REQUESTED OUTLINED IN EMBTEL 1877.

3. RENTAL HOUSING IN DAMASCUS SCARCE AND FOR THAT
REASON EXPENSIVE. ESTIMATED CURRENT COST MODEST ONE/
TWO BEDROOM FURNISHED APARTMENT WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY
\$5,500 TO \$6,000 INCLUDING UTILITIES. SYRIAN CUSTOMS
WOULD PERMIT FREE ENTRY ONLY OF CLOTHING AND OTHER
LIKE PERSONAL EFFECTS CARRIED BY INDIVIDUAL WHEN FIRST ENTERING
COUNTRY. ITEMS SUCH AS RADIOS, TV'S AND FURNITURE WOULD
BE SUBJECT TO TAX. UNDERSTAND THAT ACS BEIRUT ALLOWS
THEIR CONTRACT TEACHERS EXCESS BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE
EQUIVALENT TO 20 PERCENT COST OF ECONOMY CLASS TICKET FURNISHED
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TO TEACHER. INSOFAR AS OTHER PREREQUISITES EMBASSY MORE

THAN WILLING TO BE OF ASSISTANCE BUT WOULD APPRECIATE
GUIDANCE ON WHAT USUAL PRACTICE IS AT OTHER POSTS IN
SAME CIRCUMSTANCE.

4. EMBASSY HAS CHECKED WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY AND
ENVISAGES NO PROBLEM WITH VISA NOR WORK PERMITS AND WILL
DO ALL POSSIBLE TO ENSURE SMOOTH, EXPEDITIOUS ISSUANCE
OF SAME IN U.S.

5. APPRECIATE EARLY ADVICE ON EXTENT OF SUPPORT
DEPARTMENT INTENDS TO GIVE IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS OUTLINED
IN REFTELS.
MURPHY

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NNN

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